

They went into hock and mortgage to pay for it.

They are wondering: What do you want of us, America? We are trying to do everything you are asking of us. But we don't know what to do.

That is pretty tough stuff to come from one little country. It is little. But for a small country, it has more barrels of oil under each square piece of its earth than any other similar piece of soil in the world. That is Kuwait. It is small but hugely laden with oil supplies.

I am delighted that the gas tax pumps Senator VOINOVICH up enough to come to the floor and not only talk about that gasoline tax which pays for our highways. No matter what it was for when it was passed, it is now in our highway trust fund. It is part of the formula that we used.

I will tell you, if you temporarily repeal it for 1 year, it will not hurt the allocations for the year 2001. Everybody will get what they currently plan on getting. But that means we have to eventually put the money back in.

We are running around talking about trying to pay for future military needs and trying to take care of some new Medicare needs, if we can get reform, and, frankly, we ought not to be cavalierly talking about these billions that we are going to have to take out of the general fund.

I want to say for the record so everybody will know when they hear about their gasoline tax that the rule of thumb is for every penny of tax for roads and the like, the U.S. Government gets \$1 billion. That is a pretty rough calculus. If it is 4.3, it is about \$4.3 billion. If it is 18 cents that is repealed temporarily, or otherwise, it is about \$18 billion. That is per annum, per year. The rule of thumb still applies. It applied a few years ago. Nobody has changed it, to my knowledge right now. It might change as the price goes up. We may see some change. But I don't think so because these are not percentages. They are pennies per gallon.

ALASKA'S MAN OF THE CENTURY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wish to make a few remarks about a friend of mine. I will have been in the Senate at the end of this year for 28 years. When I arrived, a Senator was already here named TED STEVENS from the great State of Alaska. He was strong, articulate, and he was tough. He was moving up in the ranks.

There are approximately 6 billion people alive on this Earth right now, and only 619,000 of them are living in Alaska. After a long process, it was decided that Senator STEVENS should be the "Man of the Century" for Alaska.

We have all attended banquets and events for the "Man of the Year" or the "Woman of the Year." But Alaska

did it up right. They found one of their own, and said: If you look at the century—for part of which they certainly were not in the United States—who is the man of that century? And it was our own TED STEVENS, currently the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

It is phenomenal how people more times than not find reality. They find out what gold is, what is really important, and what is big, strong, and sturdy. It is clear that when it comes to stature, he might not be a tall or big man, but he matches Alaska's mountains; no doubt about it. He is a mountain of a man. I am very grateful to be able to call him my friend.

Other Senators have already put in the RECORD all of the things he has done around here in his years as Senator and how many times he has had to run. A few times he was Senator for only a couple of years, and then he had to run again. He has run more times than the number of years of service would directly yield for a 6-year term, as the occupant of the chair and I serve.

When you add it all up, Alaska has done it right. They have concluded that when you look back on the people of Alaska, even long before there was statehood, they are really saying there has not been a man like him. Alaska hasn't had a man like TED STEVENS. He is unique.

I want to say on the floor tonight that I am a few days late. I had left town when I found out about this last week. I am glad to have the opportunity tonight.

I want to say I am thrilled to have him as my friend. He has a tough job. So do I. I do the budget, and he helps me. He does appropriations, which has to be done every single year with the claims all the Senators put upon him, and with all of the claims others place in behalf of the people of this country for new programs and new expenditures. He has an awful lot of that on his shoulders.

I say to him that we are lucky we have him here. We are thrilled that he came from Alaska. If I were an Alaskan, I would have joined them in voting for him as the "Man of the Century."

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2323

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2323 is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2323) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to clarify the treatment of stock options under this act.

Mr. DOMENICI. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the executive calendar: No. 450.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The nomination will be stated.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rudy deLeon, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDER FOR CLOTURE VOTE—S. 2285

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, with reference to the satellite loan guarantee legislation, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2285 occur immediately following the conclusion of S. 2097, the satellite loan guarantee bill, but in any event no later than 6 p.m. on Thursday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2000

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 30. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin consideration of S. 2097, the satellite loan guarantee legislation.